

REMARKS

Continued examination is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As stated above, in lieu of payment of the issue fee, this Submission Under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and in support of the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") (37 C.F.R. §1.114) which is filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicant notes that pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.313(a) no petition to withdraw the application from issue is required. Entry of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 are pending and, as indicated in the Notice of Allowability, have been allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 14 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as previously indicated. New claims 15 and 16 have also been added for consideration on the merits and are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as for claims 1 and 9 to which claims 15 and 16 respectively correspond. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

The claims as presented herein are believed not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of any references of record in this case taken individually or in combination.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented herein are thus allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

PATENT
S/N: 09/910,508

Docket No. 1232-4737

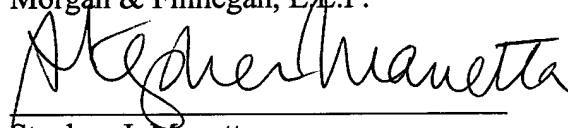
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, should that in anyway facilitate prosecution.

Should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4737.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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